REVOLUTION

socialist youth movement

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ISSUE 71

SHUT DOWN THE G8!

"we'd have got away with it too if it wasn't for those pesky kids..."

MAKE THE G8 HISTORY

Wanker of the Month

JEFFERY SACHS

Jeffery Sachs was proclaimed to be the "most important economist today" by the New York Times recently (and as a "filthy bourgeois scumbag" by a REVO member).

As the advisor to the UN secretary general, Kofi Annan for implementation of the UN Millennium Development Goals (MDG's), he recently set out his plan for eradicating poverty. He claims that "In the poorest places, you can't really argue that it's exploitation by big companies that's the cause of poverty".

Sachs scapegoats the people of Africa for having too many kids claiming that "In the poorest regions of Africa, an average woman in the society will have 6 or 7 children. Those children are not going to get a proper education and healthcare and the investments they need to be as productive as they should be".

Population is not the cause of poverty but a side effect of the poverty in Africa. Women have more children in the poorest areas of Africa because the more pairs of hands they have to help, the more income and food they can seek out for the family.

The rich like Sachs blame the poor for their problems, when it is the parasites 'working' in the boardrooms on 2 million dollars a year that are the problem! Of course rich people can have as many kids as they like, but the poor must be attacked for producing 'unproductive' children!

Poverty is produced by multinational companies creating sweatshops, converting subsistence farming land into cash crop plantations, paying such a pittance to its unstable workforce, exploiting the population to the extent that the more children a woman can produce the more likely it is that her family will survive.

Also, Sachs criticises the Anti-capitalist movement as being "anti-globalisationist."

Nothing could be further from the truth. Revolutionary socialism demands the co-ordination of the world's workers, oppressed and resistant population to unite and overthrow the current global capitalist domination and considers global tools such as the internet to be an essential method of organising this.

If Sachs is the most important economist of today, no wonder we're in such as mess.

Jeffery Sachs - welcome to the wanker of the month hall of fame.

EDITORIAL

July sees thousands of people taking to the streets in actions against the G8. The reason? Because the way that Bush, Blair, Berlusconi and the billionaires are running the world isn't working.

A look at the world today shows that something needs doing: 2 billion people live on less than $1 a day, 30,000 people die every day as a result of poverty, much of Iraq has been reduced to a pile of rubble. These aren't the features of a society which is progressive. They are the features of capitalism.

Despite the attempts of the likes of Gordon Brown (who far from making poverty history, has made it a reality for thousands people through his economic policies and backing of the war on Iraq) to hijack the G8 summit to show that capitalism can be convinced to sort out its own contradictions through lobbying, the G8 will see a potential resurgence of the anti capitalist movement in Britain.

For months there has been a build up of meetings organising against the G8, protests against poverty and direct action against the pre summit conferences of the imperialists. If the right direction is taken at and after the G8 these pieces can come together and a movement that is big, militant and has the correct political direction to be able to fight and defeat capitalism can be built.

All of the components of a revived anti capitalist movement will be in place at the G8, and REVO will be participating in them - each is a necessary part of the fight against capitalism and each can not be taken in isolation.

The mass demonstration on the 2nd July will show the potential mass power of the anti-debt movement. The G8 Alternatives Summit on the 3rd will be a chance to discuss and make decisions on the future of the movement and to form a UK wide network of struggles - a UK Social Forum. And the July 6th actions in Gleneagles will be a chance to shut down the illegitimate and imperialist G8 summit.

It is crucial for the future anti capitalist movement that as much effort and people are put into all three of these events. A mass demo on its own can be inspiring and raise awareness but not force the capitalists into giving up their wealth and ending poverty. Discussion is a good thing, but only if it leads somewhere. And the shutting down of the G8 summit is a massively important thing, but as with every individual part of the anti G8 protests it is only a first step.

REVO will be fighting for the kind of movement that can end poverty, exploitation and war: a revolutionary socialist one. Join us all through the G8 protests and beyond to be part of something which can change society so that no one has to worry about starvation, bombing or oppression. Join us in the fight for socialism!

Revolutionary days in Bolivia

"The streets of La Paz look like a war zone. Smoke rises as protesters throw dynamite sticks and pile rubble on the streets. Riot police charge an array of indigenous activists, coca farmers, district 'juntas', miners, trade unionists and students aiming to bring down the government and nationalise Bolivia's natural resources.

Tear gas poisons the air. Indian women in bowler hats shout: 'Bolivia libre, si! Colonia Yanqui, no!' They wave rainbow-coloured flags of the Indian nation. This is the Inca revolution. "

The Observer June 12th

A mass struggle is taking place in Bolivia for the re-nationalisation of the gas industry (which was privatised by the WTO in the nineties). It has led to a general strike and armed barricades of workers and poor in the streets.

In May the call went out from El Alto for an indefinite general strike until their demand for full nationalisation was realised. The Bolivian workers federation, the COB, backed the call for a general strike. The strike spread like wildfire across the country with miners, teachers and transport workers joining in.

By early June the capital and much of the country was gripped by the strike and road blockades forcing the President to hand in his resignation. The congress (like the houses of parliament in Britain) reconvened in Sucre - away from the pressure of El Alto - to choose a successor who could defuse the situation. The right wing congress's favourite for the job of new president was Hormando Vaca Diez, but because of the pressure from the general strike they couldn't possibly choose such a right winger. Instead, they chose Eduardo Rodriguez to be the new President. He was the head of the supreme court and someone supposedly above party politics. His remit was a simple one; restore stability and end the general strike without giving in.

Why we need to shut down the G8

On July 2nd, hundreds of thousands of people will converge on Edinburgh to march against global poverty. The demo on the 2nd marks the start of a week of protests targeting the G8 leaders as key actors in the continuing economic war against the global south. We have heard promise after promise from Blair and Brown since they entered office, and in Edinburgh next month, anti-capitalists from around Europe will gather to hold them to account for their broken pledges.

The most recent offer from the G8 finance ministers has been to completely cancel the debt of eighteen of the nations affected. Just like every other offer made by the G8, this is a thinly veiled way of gaining further economic control in these countries. What the finance ministers chose not to tell us is that any debt relief given will be in exchange for regulation by the International Monetary Fund. In practical terms this means the countries being forced into wholesale privatization of public services, the opening of their economy to western business interest and the destruction of any form of worker's rights. Doesn't seem quite so generous now, does it?

The leaders of the G8 may tell us that they care about the third world, but remember, these are the same people who have supported the occupation of Iraq and told us that 'its for the good of the Iraqi people'. At its core, all the plans of the G8 are developed in the interest of supporting western business. This exposes the lie of 'the developing world'. Because of the policies of institutions like the G8 and the WTO, IMF and World Bank Africa is not developing, it is ravaged by poverty, war and AIDS. The G8 is part of the problem not the solution. They will not challenge the corrupt dictators and Government leaders in Uganda, Rwanda, Sierra Leone and other nations; instead they give them funding and political support!

The G8 and its counterpart institutions are a support mechanism for the Imperialist leaders to make decisions and enforce their class interests on the rest of the world. The G8, World Bank, UN and IMF were all set up after the second world war as institutions that could best re-organise the world according to how the Allies wanted it to look.

That is why the US has so much power in these bodies, and the other European nations don't dare to stand up to the US president. Even if they did, the UK, France and Germany are not left wing paradises which just want to make the world a better place. They have the same interests as the USA and that boils down to one thing, profit. Anything that makes it is good, anything that does not is bad. The only real disagreements between Bush and Blair over African debt is the question of how much aid to give form theitr countries budgets. The UK promised back in 72 to give 0.7% a year of its GDP as aid to the third world, but even now more than 30 years later we still only give 0.34%!

Whilst we support the call of Bob Geldof to 'Make Poverty History', we do not think that it can be done through a lobbying campaign to get the best out of a bad bunch.

What is required is an international, militant movement to overthrow the imperialist power structure once and for all. As far as Edinburgh and Gleneagles go, we must take the chance to build this anti-capitalist movement and it bring it forward. As Gordon Brown said back in June "now is not a time for timidity but a time for boldness".

We agree, lets take a bold step and declare this Gang of eight thieves illegal and call for them to be shut them down!

Since then the general strike has been called off and the barricades taken down. This is a first victory for Rodriguez. The workers and peasants have been promised new presidential elections at some point in the next eighteen months. This is not a victory but a setback for the mass movement. General strikes pose the question of power in society - who governs, the workers or the rich? They can only go on for so long before they are either defeated or workers go to the next stage and start managing production themselves and dismantling the capitalist state in favour of a new state of the workers and poor. A new president that will govern for the capitalists will not see the Bolivian revolution through to victory.

The current set back shows the limits of fighting for only reformist demands. Reformist leaders, who don't won't to challenge the totality of the system, will in the final analysis, capitulate rather than building a new system out of the crisis. In Bolivia workers and poor people need to convene a conference to build a revolutionary party to link the fight for re-nationalisation, to the fight against the system and organise for workers and poor people to take power.

Facts of life in Africa

Life expectancy declined in no fewer than 31 African countries between 1995 and 1998.

The average sub-Saharan African can expect to live 14 years less than someone in the next-poorest region, South Asia- and 30 years less than someone in the industrialized world.

In Zimbabwe and Uganda the impact of deaths attributed to AIDS has reduced average life expectancy in 1998 to below what it was in 1960

HIV Infection rates:
Botswana 36%; Swaziland 25%, Zimbabwe 25%; Lesotho 24%; Zambia 20%; South Mrica 20%; Namibia 20%; Malawi 16%; Kenya 14%; Mozambique 13%; Burundi 11%; Rwanda 11%; Ethiopia 11%; Uganda 8%; Tanzania 8%

Structural Adjustment Programes

Instead of decreasing the debt burden, the era of SAPs had led to a 400% increase in debt (to $230 billion) since 1980.

As of 1996 sub-Saharan Africa had a higher debt as percentage of GNP than any other major Third World region with Sub-S.aharan Africa's at 73% while Middle East and North Africa's 36%, East Asia and Pacific's 36%, Latin American and Caribbean's 34% and South Asia's 30% (Fischer 2001) (African Agenda 2000).

The era of SAPs has also witnessed a decline in the share of exports or African countries. This has been especially pronounced in the 1990s when there has been a dramatic increase in world exports from about 3.5 trillion in 1990 to 6.5 trillion US dollars in 2000 (about 85%).

Although there was a nominal increase in exports of about (35%) the share of exports from African countries fell dramatically from 2.35% in 1990 to 1.78% in 2000

The 48 countries of sub-Saharan Africa spend approximately $13.5 billion every year (1) repaying debts to rich foreign creditors for past loans of questionable legitimacy.

The Police: Thugs of the Ruling Class

By Dan in London

The TV and the papers portray them as the thin blue line, defending 'normal' people from the hordes of criminals waiting to rob us blind, rape us, or murder us in our beds. The truth is something entirely different.

The fact is that when anti-social crimes like burglary, street robbery and so on are committed against working class women and men, if you phone the police from a working class estate, often they won't show for hours. Many a time friends and family have phoned for assistance and if the police turn up at all it is hours to late. I doubt that would be the case if I lived in Kensington or any other rich area. Women who have been raped find the police incredibly unsympathetic, and the Judges even less so! Black and Asian people are routinely stoped and searched for no other reason than the colour of their skin. Many people believe this proves that the police should have more money or power. As if putting more resources into a racist, anti working class body would make them any better!?

The real nature of the police will become even more apparent at and after the G8. In Sheffield the police attacked a peaceful demonstration that was protesting outside the meeting of the G8 Justice ministers in June.

In Genoa in 2001 a peaceful demonstration of around 20,000 young people that was marching to where the G8 leaders were meeting was attacked. The Italian police fired tear gas from helicopters into the demonstration. They repeatedly baton charged the demonstrators and in the end the shot a young protester dead. At another G8 summit in the French town of Evian in 2003 they fired rubber bullets at protesters.

Already, the Police in Scotland are harassing activists who are trying to organise actions and protests against the G8.

The Police will do all they can to harass and wreck the plans of those who want to protest when the leaders of the 'free world' meet.

But it is the G8 leaders who are the real criminals. They programmes they force on the developing world wreck the lives and billions causing wide spread poverty and environmental destruction. Bush and Blair launched an illegal war on Iraq that has killed over 100,000 Iraqi people just so they could control a strategic oil interests. Corruption allegations surround nearly all of the G8 leaders and the only thing that keeps Chirac and Berlusconi from facing charges is the fact they can't face prosecution while they are in office. Yet, these criminals are protected by the police.

How can this be?

The state is made up of the police, the army, the judges, parliament and the unelected civil service. It is not a neutral body or 'referee' that maintains order in society. The state actually serves the interests of the ruling class - the capitalist class.

That is why the Police, who are really just the armed thugs of the state, one day claim to be maintaining law and order, while on the next day they'll be attacking peaceful protesters as they try to demonstrate against the very criminals the police protect.

For example, in 1984 during the great miners strike in Britain, the Tory government used the police to attack miner's picket lines and terrorise miner's villages as they tried to protect their jobs and communities from economic destruction. And all because the capitalist class needed to smash the miners unions so they could wage a war on the job and conditions of workers in Britain.

Imagine if a movement, supported by the mass of working people, tried to seriously change the distribution of wealth from the rich to the poor. Who would the police side with? The rich and powerful of course.

The state is not neutral in times of struggle. History has shown this again and again, police forces around the world have brutalised movements of the oppressed and exploited whenever they try to fight for change.

So what is the alternative?

Against police harassment and their attacks on demos and pickets, we should not turn the other cheek. We need to organise disciplined defence capable of protecting and defending demonstrations and other actions when the police attack.

We need to fight against and demand the repeal of all the wide ranging powers the police have to stop and search people and to harass activists.

Ultimately when we are in a position to try and change the world it will be the police who will try and block us. We will need to smash them up and replace them with armed bodies of workers along with the rest of the capitalist state.

The road to the G8: A taste of repression

By James in Leeds

On 16 June the G8 Justice and Home affairs ministers met in Sheffield to discuss their plans in the run up to the G8 Summit. In response, several groups involved in organising against the G8 Summit mobilised to demonstrate outside the meeting.

As usual, the police (with the backing of the media) endeavoured to create a false divide between 'good' and 'bad' protestors. The Wednesday evening saw two protests happening outside the Winter Gardens, where G8 delegates were meeting for a meal. One of these was a Make Poverty History demonstration, sanctioned by the police on the conditions that it was a protest of no more than one hundred, and that it remained silent for the duration of the meeting! The second 'unofficial' demonstration drew together trade unionists and activists from Revolution and other groups.

When we marched near the hotel we realised how the police intended to deal with us when we saw a convoy of riot vans passed us by heading to the Winter Gardens. By now, people who were in the city centre were joining the demonstration. By this time we were numbering almost 300 people and the chant of 'Whose Streets?! ...Ours Streets!!' resounded through the streets.

The police were clearly surprised by the speed that the demonstration had grown, and again tried to halt us by forming another line. The police attacked the front line of the demonstration. They began lashing out at those nearby, viciously beating up a sixteen-year boy, batoning several people in the face, and dragging one sixty year old man from his bike. This is probably just a taster of what Gleneagles will be like unless we organise to defend ourselves!

See you at Gleneagles.

CRIMINALISING YOUTH CULTURE

By Rebecca in Croydon

In mid-May 2005, Bluewater shopping centre, which boasts having over 400 CCTV cameras constantly monitoring shoppers, placed a ban on hooded tops and baseball caps along with behaviour deemed to be intimidating or a threat to Bluewater's 'family environment' (which also includes political leafleting!)

In the beginning of a third term, Tony Blair gave his support to the ban. They can now spin that they are being 'tough on crime' and the 'prevailing yob culture in England'. These sorts of rules are aimed mainly at young males, especially black and Asian working class youth. Just like ASBOs and curfews this ban is part of a wider political attack on young peoples' rights.

The 'hiding crime in hoodies' idea, swallowed by such papers as the Daily Mail, the Sun, the Mirror, the Daily Star and the News of the World, is one of sheer ignorance and social blindness. Young people are predominately perceived in these daily papers as 'louts', 'yobs' and 'scum'. This culture of fear is created and maintained by the media with government support.

Yes, people can hide their faces behind hooded tops when committing social crimes, but these figures are low. The media will of course latch onto horror stories, yet they hardly ever note that crime rates are falling. Note the Government's own statistics on social crime from 1992-2002, with the number of 10-to-17-year-olds convicted or cautioned falling from 143,600 to 105,700, a drop of almost 26%. Government research has found the biggest antisocial behaviour is speeding - an adult offence. The continual media focus on the negative side of the youth has to be fought against.

People often say they fear people who wear hooded tops, for their faces are hidden; they are automatically a threat, a mugger, a rapist a 'no-gooder', yet how many times has such fears of such people come of nothing? Frequently people expect others to fit their stereotypes of them, as often seen in the media and television. To label someone as a 'thug' or a 'yob' will often make them act this way, if only because your attitude towards them and their label helps to maintain it. This is called the self-fulfilling prophecy, where you think someone will do something, and often they do play up to that label.

While Bluewater has banned the wearing of hoodies and baseball caps it has not banned their sale. Hypocrites. Presumably these tops and caps are big sellers for the shops (were hoodies can cost £70+) that stock them. Better to squash the people who create the profit then actually squash the shops who take the profit!

Yet we cannot look at such a ban without looking at the deeper issues around it, the issues that spawn and maintain it. A ban on an item of clothing is the top of a deeper initiative, often in the guise of 'supporting moral values'. While the supporters of such values (read the Daily Mail on any day and your sure to find something on it) will deny that the cause of most, if not all, social problems are such factors as poverty, racism, alienation, boredom, police harassment, vandalism and the creator of it all- capitalism.

When a teenager in a hooded top commits a crime, it is pounced on by the media and the government who brand all hoddie wearing young people as potential criminals.

For many young people shopping centres like Bluewater are a place for these young people to meet up and hang out. Such people may buy products, CD's, books, vinyl's, food, clothing (hoodies?!), yet these people aren't the ideal consumer. They are not entirely suitable for Bluewater and its shopping style. Loads of young people 'hanging out' can make the place look unattractive to the bosses who pay the rent on the Bluewater centre!

Youth are always blamed for anti-social crime such as vandalism. However youth centres and services are being cut all the time by governments. Prices for films, clubs, pubs, museums, concerts, sport facilities and events are beyond our reach. Parks and public spaces are shrinking in our cities as they are bought up and developed, leaving us nowhere to go but to hang out on the streets where the police stop and harass us.

Instead of providing facilities for young people, free education and training who have no money the labour government prefers criminalise young people and youth culture.

We need to fight against these attacks and the criminalisation of young people.

REVOLUTION SAYS

Everywhere the youth are oppressed. In many countries, young people receive no guaranteed education. Where they do, schools mirror the basic inequalities and power structures of capitalism, denying young people any right to participate in decision making and subjecting them to petty disciplinary controls.

That's why we fight for:

- Lifting of all bans on the activities and culture of young people
- We should fight against ASBOs and curfews on young people
- We want funding for youth centres and musical / sports centres everywhere paid for by taxing the rich
- We fight for an end to the culture of boredom - abolish entrance fees to recreational facilities and events for young people
- Scrap all laws restricting free parties and other events organised for fun not profit
- We want those centres and the activities the run to be controlled by the young people who run them.
- We should fight for a living wage for all young people over the age of 16.
- Free education and training for all.

Ending poverty m
ending capitalism

By Josh and Luke

The G8 summit this year, where eight of the most powerful leaders of the world meet to discuss economic and political strategy, has been met with a massive response from campaigners angered by the G8's role in forcing through policy that leads to massive levels of global poverty. And one glance at the statistics will show you just how bad global poverty is.

- 30,000 children in the third world die every day from poverty, that's around 1 every 3 seconds.
- 1.2 billions people live on less than a dollar a day, while 2 billion live on less than two dollars a day.
- 1.1 billion people don't have access to clean drinking water.
- 840 million people are malnourished
- 1 in 5 people in the global south are not expected to survive beyond the age of 40

The policies of the G8 do not ignore the third world, but are actually the source of the problem. Over the last twenty years right wing governments, particularly in Britain and America, have sought to dismantle the social gains won by working people over the previous fifty years in favour of policies that would help the rich and big business.

In Britain, Tory leader Margaret Thatcher, dismantled large chunks of the state run welfare and industry selling it off to private companies at very favourable rates. Taxes on the rich were also slashed. Nothing was to be allowed to stand in the way of profit. These policies were exported to the third world and had a crippling affect. Institutions, like the IMF, World Bank and WTO, enforced pro business policies that had a terrible affect on the countries people. For instance, in South Africa, where many people did not have access to clean drinking water, the service was privatised and poor people, who had previously got it free, were now asked to pay money for it that they didn't have.

These structural adjustment policies within countries went hand in hand with breaking down the barriers to money and goods flowing across borders. 'Free trade' as it is often called, is a system by which private companies pay very little tax or tariffs to move goods between countries and can switch where they have their goods produced very easily from country to country. This creates a 'race to the bottom' in which countries seek to have the lowest taxes and wages to attract jobs from multinational companies. In the clothes industry, businesses like Nike, have come under attack for conditions in their sweatshops where workers do cripplingly long days, in very hot conditions for pitiful amounts of money.

And the rich don't give out handouts either. Aid is used as a weapon to force poor countries to open their markets to G8 nations' corporations, slash their taxes and welfare spending, and give political support and allegiance to the rich nations.

For example, after Yemen at the United Nations voted against the first Gulf War in 1991, the US government described it as 'the most expensive mistake the countries rulers had ever made' and proceeded to slash aid given to the country. The G8 countries complain about corruption in the third world, but don't point out that it was they themselves that corrupted and supported

the despots over the past fifty years sending them arms and money on the condition of political allegiance.

Like aid, third world debt, is used as a weapon to enforce a pro business policy. At the G8 summit much is being made of promises to slash debt but all the proposals are tied to 'conditionalities' - to the condition that the third world governments pursue pro business not pro welfare policies.

Capitalism is the problem

The G8 We are absolutely right to fight against poverty, war and environmental destruction and the G8's role in all three. But, they are not just bad ideas pursued by misguided leaders but are a central component of the system that puts profit before the poor - capitalism.

There is no way that these problems can be finally solved within the framework of capitalism. There is no 'capitalism with a nicer face'. Big businesses drive to ever greater profit means that nothing is safe. From workers rights, to the welfare of the planet everything has a cost and a price. This can't be made ethical, because it's the logic of the system where the means of producing what we need to live (clothes, food, water, technology) is privately owned.

Socialism is the solution

The rich will not give up their wealth until someone forces them to do so.

That 'someone' is the collective action of the working class. Workers are in a unique position to take hold of and control what gives the capitalists profit - the factories, shop floors, etc - is what socialists call the 'means of production'. Under capitalism the means of production is privately owned but under the control of the workers it can be run publicly controlled and run in the interests of the whole of humanity.

Through internationalising this struggle against capitalism (which is a world system) and defeating the ruling class of every country a classless stateless society can be built, since without exploitation there are no classes and without antagonistic classes the state has no function - in such a world the economy can be democratically planned on a worldwide scale. This is what we mean by communism, a world of freedom and human solidarity, it has

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nothing in common with the brutal bureautic and despotic regimes that ran the soviet union.

Revolution is how we get there

All human history shows that ruling classes will go to horrific measures to defend their privilege an position in society. Today, we should not be so naive to think that, the system that brought us shock and awe bombing, and Guantanomo Bay prison camps will evolve peacefully to socialism. We are going to have to organise for a revolution. This means building new revolutionary political parties, entirely democratic in their structure and organisation, to fight for the overthrow of capitalism.

Already millions are mobilised against war, poverty and privatisation. The G8 summit will be under siege from demonstrators fighting for these demands. Revolutionaries should join in these protests and fight to build a militant and organised movement that takes the action necessary, forcing the hand of the G8 governments to cancel all the debt and to end their pro business policy. But, we should also argue against reformists who believe this, on its own, will be enough to solve the world's problems. It won't but will only create new confrontations and struggles between workers and the rich. To end this class struggle, the working class have to win, and build a new socity. That means, socialists have to continually seek to win the movement to the building of new world party of socialist revolution, the Fifth such party to exist, that will bring the movements and struggles of today through to their final victory.

We are central to the fight for another world

The G8 leaders at their summit this July will be under siege from thousands of protesters fighting for another world. Young people have been at the forefront of these mobilisations in schools, colleges, universities and at work. We shouldn't be surprised, it is after all our future and our world that is being frittered away by the G8 leaders' actions. Their policies that impoverish the great majority of the world's people all so the rich and their huge corporations can make bigger and bigger profits and live in astonishing wealth.

This isn't the first time that thousands of young people have besieged the summits, meetings and institutions of the rich and powerful that legislate for a system of global poverty. Since the late 90s in cities as diverse as Seattle, Genoa, Jakarta, and Melbourne and beyond millions have protested against the policies of the G8 governments and their institutions the IMF, World Bank and World Trade Organisation.

REVOLUTION was founded in the midst of this new radicalism. We brought together activists that identified capitalism as the problem, socialism as the solution and global revolution as the only possible route to another world. We saw that capitalism systematically oppressed young people at school, college, work and in the family and wanted to organise independently to challenge it.

Our aim was, and remains, the building of mass revolutionary youth international active in every struggle of the oppressed, the youth, the poor and the working class across the globe seeking to turn each and every one of these struggles into the fight for a communist society brought about by global revolution. The G8 protests offer a great opportunity to rally youth in the movement, that remain either unorganised or organised into parties where they are dictated too, to this goal.

This will mean calling for militant action of all youth against capitalism; and the war, poverty and racism it creates. That's why REVOLUTION at the G8 is calling for youth groups of social movements, trade unions and political parties to mobilise for the protests against the privatisation policies of the EU in the Autumn and shut down its summit in Britain in December. But we also need to discuss how we can win, and debate out the question of reform and revolution. That's why Revolution is active in plans to create a pan European Youth Network to facilitate debate while mobilising for the European Social Forum in Athens, and to hold a youth space and assembly at the event itself. We will be using the G8 protests as an opportunity to make allies for this project amongst activists and organisations.

These can be real steps forward in the here now towards building a revolutionary youth international to organise young people and see our struggles through to victory. But, we can't change the world on our own. For that we need the organised power of the international working class. Through the organisation of young people in the movement into a mass revolutionary youth international fighting for socialism we can show workers and poor people that it is possible to unite across borders on a radical basis for radical goals. A revolutionary youth international will not just be a great leap forward for us, but could trigger steps towards a new global working class party of social revolution.

At the G8 protests we will be fighting alongside the League for the Fifth International too organise workers in the struggle to found this new party too. If you want to join us in the fight around this goal, get active and

REVOLUTION! In the UK

REVOLUTION is an independent campaigning socialist youth organisation with groups and supporters across the world. We are active in struggles of the workers, poor and oppressed and fight to build a revolutionary youth international to unite young people in the fight against the system and for a socialist world. We organise our own campaigns, conferences and meetings, while also working with other groups and individuals where we agree to make our voice and collective strength louder and stronger. Here is a selection of reports and photos of what we've being doing to take the resistance to war, racism and globalisation forward across the world.

Indonesia ☆

REVOLUTION Indonesia was founded around eighteen months ago by activists involved in the student movement that played an important role in ending the military dictatorship in the country in the late 90s.

We have organised our first REVOLUTION Camp this Spring that brought together activists from across Jakarta to discuss a whole range of Marxist ideas and issues for the class struggle in Indonesia. The camp was also attended by REVOLUTION members from Australia and Europe that helped us feel united in our international organisation.

Indonesia has seen massive protests against the war and terror that we took part in and have also organised our own protests outside the American embassy calling for solidarity with the resistance and for troops out now.

We have also taken part in a gay and lesbian festival, who in Indonesia suffer a lot of persecution. We wanted to show our revolutionary solidarity with their struggle and help them to build a resistance movement.

The situation in Indonesia means that it is difficult to organise in public because it is illegal to be openly communist. This is an oppressive hangover from the military dictatorship of Surharto that was backed by the USA and Europe. Unlike, in Britain it is impossible to openly sell the paper on the streets for instance. However, we are going to work to subvert the ban and organise to build our ideas in Indonesia and win people to REVOLUTION.

Australia ☆

REVOLUTION in Australia have been active in three main campaigns over the last year; defending abortion rights, the Free Mario Bango campaign and the campaign to boycott Coca Cola. John Howard's government is very right wing and is trying to limit the rights of women to have abortions, there has been a big mobilisation against this drawing in activists from a number of campaigning groups and trade unions.

For the Free Mario Campaign we have fundraised money to help pay for some of his legal costs while also collecting signatures for his release and sending them to the Slovakian embassy.

We have also been building solidarity with activists in Columbia resisting Coca Cola and have helped launch the boycott campaign in Australia. We are also planning for another REVOLUTION camp in September.

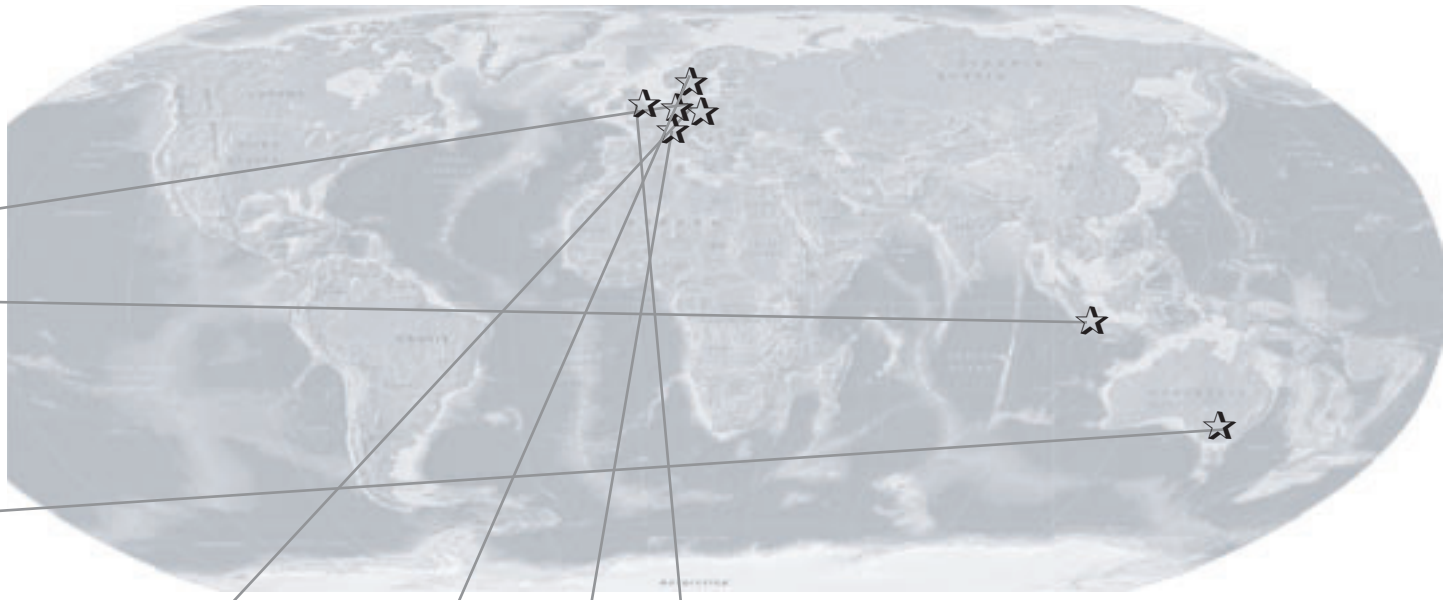
Austria ☆

REVOLUTION Austria have been at the forefront of a number of successful mobilisations, including militant anti fascist demos and a highly successful mayday demonstration against imperialism and in support of worker's rights around the world. We have prided ourselves on building big, loud, militant contingents attracting scores of young people to our organisation and our ideas. This Summer we are holding a series of Marxist educationals to help educate our members in our theory and also holding a series of social events and parties. We also hosted the REVOLUTION international delegate conference that brought together activists from REVOLUTION groups the world over to discuss the way forward. It's been a great year, and we are really looking forward to taking further steps forward in the coming year too.

Germany ☆

REVOLUTION Germany has been campaigning against social cuts in Germany being implemented by Blair's best friend in Europe, fellow neo-liberal Chancellor Schroder, and also being involved in anti fascist actions on the 8th of May, the day the Nazi regime of Hitler fell. We are also involved in an anti NATO protest in Munich, uniting with those opposed to imperialist aggression taking to the streets against the war machine of western capitalism.

and across the Globe



We have also had our fist ever national conference this Spring where we elected a new national committee and bureau to help organise our work. A year ago we only had a handful of members scattered around the country. Now, we have a good, consolidated group, in Berlin and are building branches in other towns too. We have a really good website that gets a lot of hits and produce a very professional looking paper that has reported on all the mobilisations against the attacks on social welfare by the government.

Finally, we are also working with the Czech REVOLUTION group to hold a camp in Prague this August to discuss revolutionary ideas and plan action.

Sweden

REVO Sweden has mainly been involved with campaigning in support of the Iraqi resistance. We have organised many protests in Stockholm, and well attended meetings. We have protested outside the Iraqi embassy, organised a lively militant contingent on the mayday demo, and have been actively involved in building the anti-war movement, in particular that took place internationally on March 19th.

Czech Republic

In Czech REVOLUTION we are about to launch a major new anti-racist campaign in defence of the Roma people, this is on top of the solidarity work we have done for the freedom of Slovakian anti-racist Mario Bango. We have been pleased to host two international REVOLUTION camps in the last two years and this year are working with German REVOLUTION to do a joint camp, again in Prague, called RevoCamp Eastside.

Britain

European Social Forum

REVOLUTION played a large part in building the youth mobilisation for the European Social Forum(ESF). We were also involved in the organising of it at a national and European level, and fought hard to get a Youth Assembly at the event. Despite not having translation facilities the assembly drew in 200 young activists, from a number of organisations and initiatives, and made a bold call to action against war, racism and neo-liberalism and to shut down the G8 in July. A speaker from REVOLUTION red out the declaration at the Assembly of Social Movements that brought the ESF to a close.

Anti-war

REVOLUTION have been active in the anti-war movement from the very beginning participating in demonstrations against the Afghan war, right through to the huge revolt against the war in Iraq that saw millions take to the streets and school students organising walkouts. On March 19th this year, when a hundred thousand came together in London, we had a loud an noisy revolutionary contingent.

National Conference

REVOLUTION is a democratic organisation. We have a yearly conference, where we seek to educate ourselves with the ideas to change society and decide upon action we will take in the year ahead. This year's conference came together under the slogan 'Make Capitalism History' reflecting the importance of this year's G8 mobilisation. We agreed to launch a new campaign called 'Dump the Debt' against the third world debt and to build it in towns and cities across the UK. We also elected delegates to the international conference that tool place in Vienna this year.

Dump the Debt

Launched at our national conference, the Dump the Debt campaign, is fighting for the complete cancellation of all the third world debt, an end to the structural adjustment programmes and further neo-liberal reforms, the abolishment of the institutions of poverty - IMF, WTO and World Bank, and for reparations for the global south. REVOLUTION groups across the UK have taken part in stalls, stunts and protest around the campaign. In Leeds 50 protesters invaded the high street banks, HCBC and Natwest, highlighting the role private institutions played I giving birth to the third world debt and asking them to give over a fraction of their record profits to end global povery. Managers at the bank politely declined to sign the big blank cheque payable to the third world countries when asked to by demonstrators!

www.worldrevolution.org.uk

Check out our relaunched website, with regular news pages, a webboard where we debate out our ideas and chat, ideas pages that go into greater detail about our politics, and loads of material available to download.

IMPERIALISM
MORE THAN JUST WAR

In the last few years millions saw through the lies, and realised the bombardment and invasion of Iraq and Afghanistan was modern day imperialism. But imperialism is not just confined to war; it is also about a system of profit and exploitation. The American oil companies such as Esso have profited greatly from the war in Iraq, because the American government has military control over Iraq's resources, both human and natural.

Western banks and US oil firms looted the Abacha military regime in Nigeria for its oil wealth through supporting the brutal regime. This devastating hand of Imperialism, works to present itself as the caring face of capitalism; developing economies by sending in multi national companies to exploit the workers and take natural resources, all of course with the charitable aim of 'contributing to the elimination of world poverty'

Multi-national companies monopolise country's assets, pay well below any minimum wage, have no regards for the safety of workers or the environment and pocket all the profits. Then, to find the cheapest labour, the least binding contract and the fewest environmental restrictions these companies jump ship to a more profitable location leaving the last country in debt, pollution and unemployment.

This is what happened in the sub-Saharan oil producing Congo-Brazzaville area dominated by the French oil company Elf. The Congo-Brazzaville, which in terms of natural resources ranks amongst the richest in the African continent, now has the highest per capita debt in the world! Such a paradox has been coined as the "oil- curse" resulting in the destruction of oil-wealthy societies as the Western world pillages in the name of development.

Also global food companies are aggravating poverty in developing countries by dominating markets and forcing down sale prices for staple goods such as coffee. 30 companies now account for a third of the world's processed food and 5 companies control 75% of the international grain trade. This has been achieved through mergers allowing a few fat cats to control and concentrate market power and wealth.

In the early twentieth century Lenin, an anti-capitalist and revolutionary in Russia described this exploitation by multi-national corporations as imperialism and the name still fits today.

Another world is possible! In July the G8 summit will meet to discuss the economic year ahead, planning new ways of exploiting the world's poor. This undemocratic organisation of the leaders of the eight richest countries will never end poverty. We must resist the G8 summit, resist Imperialism and fight to build an alternative, socialist and truly democratic world system free of economic exploitation. Resistance is crucial, SHUT DOWN THE G8!!

don't mention the war (or bush)

Artists performing at the Live 8 concerts that will occur in a number of world cities at the same time as the G8 summit in Scotland have been asked by Bob Geldof and other organisers including Oxfam not to attack Bush and Blair during the concerts, and in particular not to mention the war in Iraq. Geldof went as far as saying that 'Bush has done more than any American president for Africa'. What load of crap! It just shows that for all his radical phrase mongering Geldoff is a stooge of the British and American governments.

Maybe we shouldn't mention Blair's racist attacks on immigration and his privatisation of public services if we're not going to mention the brutal attack on the Iraqi people that left over 100,000 civilians dead. The war on the poor is completely connected to the war on terror.

Pop stars and activists alike should ignore Geldof's pro Bush rubbish, link up the issues and build a mass movement of resistance.

Women's oppression, resistance and revolution

Do you remember the first time you heard someone make a sexist comment? Maybe not, because it's not that unusual, but you might remember the first time you started thinking about women's oppression as a political question, and not just as the usual background noise of unfunny jokes, exploitative images, and patronising attitudes.

Then again, you might not – 30 years ago, when the women's movement had a high profile, women's oppression was definitely on the political agenda. Today, when western women have won a lot of legal equalities, it can seem like less of an issue. As you'll know if you've read previous issues of REVOLUTION and seen the fliers for our workshop in Edinburgh on 4th July, we think women's oppression is still an important question – and becoming more so.

In our last issue we looked at how Third World debt disproportionately affects women (see website). In the run up to the G8, ActionAid have written portraits of 8 women whose experiences and opinions are in stark contrast with those of the 8 men who are representing the most powerful G8 nations. These portraits show clearly that women are being used to pick up the slack when health and education spending is cut, being forced back into the home when paid employment in "caring" roles disappears, and being hugely overburdened by the work of subsistence farming and caring for the sick and the elderly at home.

Although she describes herself as a "housewife", Justine Chesang is qualified as a secondary school teacher. Unable to find employment, she provides for her family of six children by growing coffee, maize, beans and bananas – tasks usually beyond the duties of stay-at-home mums… The World Bank's debt relief to Uganda, where Justine lives, was planned on the basis of a 6% rise in export earnings between 1998-2000. Instead, coffee prices fell by 60%, leaving the country with massive debts.

Uganda's case is not unique. Malawi has been devastated by HIV/AIDS and owes more than one and a half times it annual income. One third of government revenues were used in 2003 to service debt - twice what was spent on health. Women who can still find employment in hospitals work in over-crowded, under-resourced conditions, and probably nurse extended family members and care for orphaned children at home, too.

It's because of the use that can be made of women's unpaid labour that the family unit is crucial to capitalism. It means that all the business of producing and caring for the workforce can be privatised and placed squarely on women's shoulders in the isolation of the home. Capitalists don't want to pay out of their profits for free social care and socialised housework – better to keep "her indoors" working for free…

Women's oppression, Resistance & Revolution

REVOLUTION TEACH-IN
Monday 3rd July
1:00 - 6:00pm
The Bongo Club, 37 Holyrood Rd Edinburgh

To the leaders of the world...

From: info@worldrevolution.org.uk

To: leaders@G8.com

CC to young people around the world: come and join REVOLUTION at the protests from July 2nd - 6th. See our website for more details of how to get there and of where and when we are having planning meetings before we go...

Dear G8,

Hello again. We hope you're looking forward to your visit to Gleneagles in July. It brings back fond memories of the last time you were in Britain in 1998, when a chain of 70,000 protesters surrounded your meeting in Birmingham, doesn't it? Of course, those protests started a bit of a trend, so this time you'll be meeting further off the beaten track, in a bunker on a golf course in Gleneagles. But don't worry! We're still coming up to give you all a warm welcome.

Just like we did in Genoa in 2001, when your hired guns had to resort to murder to protect you. In response, 300,000 workers came out to march in protest against your meeting and against what you were prepared to do to silence us. On the whole, though, it makes for better public relations if you pretend that you are listening. At that meeting in Birmingham, back in 1998, you agreed to cancel a fraction of the third world debt - $100 billion, less than five percent of the total figure of over $2 trillion. It wasn't nearly enough, but even this commitment seems to have slipped your mind. As Tony and George have already spent more than three times as much on the Iraq war, maybe that's not too surprising!

All this is making us think, if thousands of protesters turning up at your meetings, and millions demonstrating against the war, aren't enough to get the message across to you all, maybe we need to be a bit more assertive...

The summit protests of the anti-capitalist movement helped to radicalise a new generation. They brought to public attention the fact that your secretive G8 meetings were being used to plan future imperialist incursions into the third world, to consolidate the power of the most powerful nations and keep the rest of the world on its knees.

But just as your G8 meetings helped you, the eight most powerful countries in the world, to get together to plan the future of the planet, they also got us thinking about doing the same. Suddenly whole new layers of activists and young people were meeting each other on the streets and at the counter-summits. We could see the possibilities of working together internationally, and of using militant action to make our voices heard.

We know that we are a strong movement - tens of thousands of protesters from across Europe and the world have spent months planning their visits to Scotland. REVOLUTION calls upon the movement to take this opportunity to flex its muscles again... The anti-war movement showed us that even demonstrations of millions of people are not enough in themselves. If the protests in Scotland are to make an impact, they need to be militant and impossible to ignore.

On 2nd July, a coalition of development NGOs, churches and charities called Make Poverty History have called a demonstration to ask the G8 leaders to cancel unpayable debt, deliver more aid, and fight for trade justice. We will be there too, but with a different message - we'll be calling for a complete cancellation of all the debt, the overthrow of the G8 governments, an end to the occupation of Iraq and Palestine, victory to the resistance and revolution against global capitalism. It's good to see that so many people are planning to go up to Edinburgh for this demonstration. However, not only is it taking place five days before you all meet, but it is 100 miles away, with transport being organised to take protesters home again immediately afterwards. We're not too sure that these Make Poverty History people can know you as well as we do if they think that this will be enough...

You see, we don't think you can make poverty history without making capitalism history too. The capitalist system depends on billions being held in poverty to produce wealth for the few. From our experience and from the lessons of history, we anti-capitalists know that if you ask your world leaders nicely to stop being so unreasonable and to hand down some more crumbs from the table, it is true that you might get some acknowledgement in the short term. But until the power of the eight of you is replaced with the power of the six billions of us, then as soon as you feel the need to forget your promises, ignore us, shoot at us... you will. And that means that you, the G8, have to go.

We don't want people to go home after the Make Poverty History demonstration, we want them to stay in Scotland with us and try to shut down your summit. We don't want the G8 Alternatives counter-summit to be a talking shop, we want to plan a permanent co-ordination of action against the G8 - we know that we need to work together consistently if we are to be as prepared as you are.

We are not asking you to cancel the "unpayable" debt: we want all the debt cancelled. We don't want your Africa Commission - you've already "helped" Africa so much that you should be paying reparations, not granting pathetic amounts of misdirected aid. We don't want any more of your phoney debt relief, like the temporary suspension of Indonesia's debt burden while the tsunami disaster had brought it to public attention. We don't want "peace" under your forces of occupation, or your "democracy" imposed at gun point, we want to see your armies driven out of the Middle East.

We are not asking you nicely for reforms, for crumbs from your table, for concessions that can be withdrawn or forgotten as soon as they are made: we are fighting for revolution.

We call upon all young people and youth organisations, on the Trade Unions, and on all other groups and individuals not only to come to Edinburgh to call for an end to international poverty, but to take the next step too - to stay in Scotland for your visit and to work alongside us to show you that we all have plans for the world, too - and we are just as dedicated as you are to making sure we can carry them out.

See you in July! from... REVOLUTION

Join REVOLUTION!

30,000 children die every day from poverty. That equates to almost a million children every month or 11 million children every year. Now ask yourself, would wearing a white armband and a joining a peaceful protest have been an adequate response to the holocaust?

No it's wouldn't.

The campaign by Make Poverty History has touched a nerve in hundreds of thousands and brought rightly them to Edinburgh to protest in support of "trade justice", "drop the debt" and "more aid".

But having a march around Edinburgh, a picnic and then a concert far away from the leaders of the G8 countries is just what Blair and Brown want us to do.

Bob Geldof and the other celebrities who have endorsed the MPH campaign may be satisfied with the pitiful solutions the G8 are proposing. But we wont and neither should you.

Their promises will turn out to be empty ones - just like all their other promises on debt relief. They will refuse to take serious measures to clean up the pollution that is contributing to climate change. They will do nothing to change trade rules that allow western owned multinationals to dominate the economies of the developing world and exploit cheap labour.

The charities and the big NGOs that have organised the campaign may be happy with some pitiful promises and satisfied that they have raised awareness of the issue of debt.

But we need to ask them how can you make poverty history when the very white arm-bands that are being used to promote the campaign, are made in a sweatshop, in China, by workers who earn 9 pence an hour?

Poverty, debt, exploitation and environmental destruction are not caused by bad policies, corrupt dictators, the lack of "open economies" or "free trade". They are caused by an economic system that puts the profits of corporations before the needs of people. A system allows the leaders of a handful of nations decide how the world is run. A system that protects the privileges of a small number of billionaires, while billions exist on less than one dollar a day.

Raising awareness of the unjust and exploitative world we live in is a necessary first step. Billions of people will see the mobilisations against this G8 summit in Edinburgh and will take hope from this act of solidarity by hundreds of thousands of young people and workers.

But every day the gap between rich and poor is widening. Every day the £2.7 trillion owed in debt is increasing. How long will it be before we talk of 40,000 children dying a day from poverty?

The system that causes this has a name. It's called capitalism.

That's why we in Revolution believe that to make poverty history we have to make capitalism history.

Capitalism cannot be replaced by begging, pleading by or laws made in parliament. It will have to thrown into the dustbin of history forcibly by the actions of workers, poor farmers and young people through an act of social revolution.

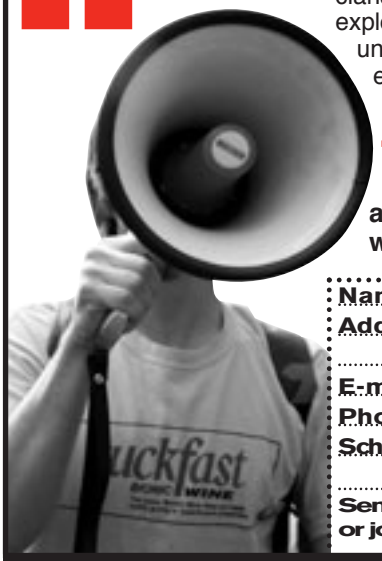
But revolutions don't just happened spontaneously. They need organisation and organisations of revolutionaries who fight to make them happen. That's what we in Revolution are trying to build. A global organisation of young revolutionaries, who want to overthrow capitalism and really make poverty history.

If you do too, you should join us.

"are you sick of sweatshops • discrimination • poverty • sexism • war • politicians • racism • boredom • police • big business • exploitation • oppression • Tony Blair • homophobia • unfair laws • third world debt • unemployment • eco-destructi on • rightwing morality • tuition fees • crap jobs • **CAPITALISM??**

then join Revolution"

and get the antidote and find out what your local group is up to.



Name:

Address:

E-mail:

Phone:

School/college?

Send to: REVO, BCM 7750, London WC1N 3XX
or join@WorldRevolution.org.uk 07951 493 232

www.worldrevolution.org.uk

WHAT WE STAND FOR

The Independent on Sunday got it right in an "expose" of REVOLUTIONs involvement in organising May Day 2001. It said: "REVOLUTION wants to build a revolutionary socialist mass movement and overthrow capitalism." Exactly right. We are opposed to capitalism and the misery, alienation, war and environmental destruction it creates.

We fight all forms of discrimination and oppression, whether on grounds of sex, race, nationality or sexuality.

Capitalism is a global system, so we have to fight it globally. We want to smash the borders and divisions of nations and move forward to a truly global and united humanity, without bigotry, war and class division. We stand shoulder to shoulder with our sisters and brothers in the Third World struggling to break free of the trillion dollar debt, the IMF, WTO and NATO.

We are socialists - we want to abolish capitalism and replace it with a planned economy. But we do not believe that the capitalist elite will allow their wealth and privilege to be voted out of existence. We believe it will take force to take the power and property away from the few and redistribute into the hands of the many - that means a revolution!

REVO wants young people to participate in radical politics and organise themselves. Young people can be very radical and militant, the anti war movement proved that. They should take a lead in the movement that will shape the struggle for the future.

We believe a mass movement must be built based on the support of the majority of the people - the working class. It is the working class that produces all the wealth in this society. The working class has no interest in keeping capitalism going. Only the working class has the power, the size and the traditions of organisation to bring this rotten system crashing down.

JOIN US!